

Mr. President, I will continue to work with the administration, with Members of both parties here in Congress to make sure this goal gets the attention that it needs.

EXHIBIT 1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 1997.

Hon. MIKE DEWINE,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR DEWINE: I read with interest your January 24 OpEd article in the Wall Street Journal.

I wholeheartedly concur with you on the need for further reforms in the police, judiciary and economy if Haiti is to realize the full benefits from the restoration of democracy. In this regard, I believe you would be interested in some developments that have occurred since your November visit to Haiti which address these shared concerns.

Police and Judicial Reforms: The Inspector General (IG) of the Haitian National Police (HNP) has continued to crack down on police officers implicated in malfeasance or other improper activity, including during the last month the detention of four HNP officers involved in a November 5 shootout in the Delmas suburb of Port-au-Prince. Over the last year, IG investigations have resulted in the dismissal of dozens of police officers. As you note, one of the most positive elements of our own effort to strengthen the fledgling Haitian National Police has been the contribution of U.S. police mentors working with their Haitian counterparts. Responding to continued Haitian Government interest in this program and to your recommendation that additional U.S. civilian police officers be assigned to Haiti, the current U.S. contingent of 22 officers will be augmented this week with the arrival of ten new mentors.

I also believe that additional measures are needed to ensure a thorough investigation of the murders of Haitian political figures. Two additional experienced, Creole-speaking U.S. investigators have been assigned to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU), and in response to a formal request from Haitian authorities, the FBI has agreed to provide a medical examiner to perform autopsies. We will give positive consideration to additional areas of support to the SIU that might be identified during a forthcoming FBI visit to Haiti to develop an investigation plan for the SIU.

In the area of judicial reform, strengthening prosecutorial capabilities and the courts remain a priority USG effort, and we will work with the Congress to provide adequate resources for these efforts.

Economic reforms: I agree with you that progress on privatization and tariff reform are essential to encourage economic development and private-sector investment. The Department remains committed to working closely with the Congress to establish and apply realistic conditions that will encourage sustainable economic development. We also plan to target USAID safety-net programs toward those most in need including, as you recommend, maintaining feeding programs directed at vulnerable sectors such as mothers and their infants.

Again, I wish to express my appreciation for your interest in Haiti and your desire to work with the Administration in pursuit of democratization, political security and economic reform. Your visits have helped to galvanize a bipartisan effort that, in turn, will help Haiti to help itself. National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and I hope to visit Haiti in the near future. I look forward to continuing close cooperation with you to address the problems of the poorest and least developed of our neighbors.

Sincerely,

STROBE TALBOTT.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for his indulgence and yield the floor.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN JERUSALEM

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, last week the Israeli leader, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, decided to authorize a politically volatile housing project for Israeli settlers in predominantly Arab East Jerusalem. This disappointing act has thrown into confusion the promising opening that was generated by the long and difficult, but successful negotiations last month, which culminated in an agreement returning control of the West Bank city of Hebron to the Palestinians. The United States invested very considerable efforts, negotiating talent and prestige to move the peace process along. The agreement over Hebron gave the world great hope that a long-term peaceful settlement of the outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinians was on an upward track.

Therefore, it is very unfortunate, in my view, that the reality of the substantial success over Hebron prompted the right wing of Israeli politics to pressure Prime Minister Netanyahu into this latest act on housing settlements. According to the New York Times of March 2, 1997, "a powerful group of Mr. Netanyahu's conservative colleagues" "leaned on him" to prove his commitment to Jerusalem by building Har Homa, threatening to bring down the government if he failed. With new territorial concessions to the Palestinians looming, Mr. Netanyahu told Americans and Palestinians privately that he had to "fill his right wing tank" on Har Homa if he was to keep on the peace route.

This is a most disappointing situation. Progress on peace is regarded as a threat by the Israeli right wing and has resulted in efforts to force the Prime Minister to retreat from his own success. The Israeli right wing should know that their behavior will have consequences in the United States, and I for one will relate my support for their agenda to their support of that of the United States, which is a fair, equitable and just peace in Jerusalem and the Middle East. The process of American intermediations between the Israelis and Palestinians is a serious matter and we cannot stand by and watch the Israeli right wing, at their whim, pull the rug out from under whatever progress is accomplished. Such actions should be understood to have consequences for support for Israel's various interests as they are considered by Senators.

I hope the Israeli Prime Minister will do better at withstanding the pressure of his right wing and, that the considerable influence of American groups will be exercised to counter those nega-

tive pressures. I hope, as I am sure my colleagues do, that the peace process will not be derailed by the actions of an extreme right wing minority in Israel and that the settlements issue will be adjusted by the Prime Minister to reflect the opportunity that the successful Hebron agreement has provided.

Mr. President, I thank my friend from Indiana, Senator COATS, for his courtesy in allowing me to proceed ahead of him. I thank him very much indeed.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, it is not difficult to yield to the Senator from West Virginia because the content of what he says is always instructive, and I am always pleased to be on the floor when he is speaking because I always learn something.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. COATS pertaining to the introduction of S. 409 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to extend the normal time of 5 minutes to 13 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FBI MANAGEMENT FAILURES— PART THREE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, troubling facts continue to surface in the FBI crime lab issue. These facts are putting flesh on the bones of allegations that much of the lab's analysis is sloppy, not credible, fabricated, or all of the above.

The FBI has charged that these allegations are unfounded, and that they are the musings of one Dr. Frederic Whitehurst. Dr. Whitehurst has come forward as a whistleblower with serious charges against the lab and its management. The FBI chose to shoot the messenger instead of taking Dr. Whitehurst seriously.

After a year of studying Dr. Whitehurst's claims and his information, I was not so sure the FBI took the wise course. Then, after a private briefing by the Justice Department's inspector general on his investigation into these matters, I was even more convinced that the FBI has taken the wrong course. And now that the FBI has taken personnel action against Dr. Whitehurst in retaliation for his telling the truth, I am convinced that the Bureau is dead wrong.

The FBI's defense—some would say coverup—is slowly unraveling. Last week, we discovered that it wasn't just Dr. Whitehurst that has raised serious concerns. Another respected scientist, Dr. William Tobin, had raised equally serious allegations in 1989. He alleged that an FBI agent tampered with evidence and made a series of false statements while testifying in court proceedings against then-Judge ALCEE L.